

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

O I P E  
MAY 14 2002In re Application of  
James W. Nichol

April 3, 2001

Serial No.: 09/105,841  
Filed: 06/30/98Group Art Unit: 3634  
Examiner: C. Cohen

For: ANGLED GRIPPING JOINT COMBINATION FOR SUPPORT STRUCTURES

## AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

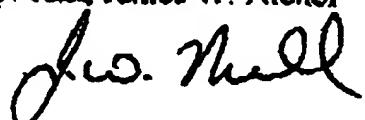
Further to the Office Action of 01/03/01, please find enclosed Claims 29 - 39, which correspond to the allowable Claims 15 - 21, 23, 25, 27 and 28 previously submitted, now amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C 112 points as set out by the examiner.

In Claim 29, (former claim 15), the "angled gripping joint combination" is the U-beam top joint in combination with the U-beam splay bar. The U-beam top joint is different from the U-beam splay bar. Together they form a combination in which those parts interact to hold the lumber pieces rigid. If the examiner believes after re-considering in view of the foregoing that the word "combination" should be removed from Claim 29 (former claim 15) and / or the other claims to render them allowable, then the applicant consents to this examiner's amendment.

In Claim 29 (former claim 15) lines 4 and 5, the indistinctness is overcome by the replacement "each such spaced inward facing end bracket together with a portion of the side U-beam and a portion of the side bracket beam being adapted ..."; those three parts, previously specified as being joined, allow the abutment on the three sides of the lumber leg.

In Claims 35, 36 and 38 (former Claim 21, 23, and 27 respectively), the claims are re-phrased as suggested by the examiner.

Applicant, James W. Nichol



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